A Good Spot of work in the South

The Grace Church Parish at Morganton North Carolina was organized in 1846 under the Bishopric of the late Rev Silliman Ives, whose going over to Rome was a theme of active Church discussion forty years ago.

The original membership was confined almost exclusively to certain Wealthy Slave-holding families, whose homesteads dotted the Valley lands of the Catawba River and its tributaries. Such growth as there was came from the increase of the families originally connected with it, with now and then a new comer

from some less healthy part of the State, seeking a home in what has been aptly called, the Switzerland of America. The Civil war left the Parish no better nor much worse off than the average Church parish of the South. There was the little frame Church with its miniature Steeple of wood, the nearby Rectory with worn coat of paint and shattered fencing — Only the graveyard had fattened in those wretched years of Strife, how much we did not realize till Peace gave employment to the marble Cutter. The Story of the South's Spring to her feet from the ashes of war and the mire of Reconstruction is a familiar one.

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Grace Church exhibited it in part as did the town of Magnanton, which rose from a hamlet of 500 to a thrifty town of 3000 in a decade. The States establishment of a large hospital for the White Insane and also a School for the Deaf Mutes in the suburbs of the place did much to bring about this change

Some Northern Settlers came in, Several industries were established and all felt the throb of a new life. A handsome Stone pile with many stained windows, lit with electricity, and furnishing room for a city congregation now occupies the site of the little frame church, the Rectory

has been enlarged and modernized, a neat frame
Chapel for the Colored population (St Stephens
by name) has been erected just East of the Church,
a Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrews
is in active working order, whose members
Conduct Services and Sunday Schools at three
Missions in the Country and at one of these a neat
Chapel has been recently built at a cost of about $250.00
The Church in this quarter has certainly taken
on new life and is reaching out a helping hand to
such as rarely or never hear the gospel. Lately
detached from the Diocese of N.C. and now a part
of the Missionary Jurisdiction of Asheville there is

not perhaps in all the Union a finer or more inviting field for Mission Work than the Mountain region of Western North Carolina and in the very heart of this is Morganton, a town dating back to the Revolution, and bearing a name of that Revolution. What has been done is in very large measure due to one man — a New Yorker attracted here largely by our climate.

He is now our Rector, the Rev Churchill Satterlee, son of the Bishop of Washington D.C. and Surely the Church has not in all her wide borders a more systematic, intelligent, enthusiastic worker. The photos accompanying this little Sketch Show that we are on the up grade, but a vast deal remains to be done and we have but spare means at command.

In the past year the Mission of the Good Shepherd in charge of Capt Theo Gordon, a retired Officer of the English Army has had an attendance averaging 38 and a Sunday School attendance of 12

The Mission of the Messiah, situated eight Miles S.W. of Maganteu in charge of Mr C F McKeon, the editor of our County paper, has had an average attendance of 88 While his Sunday School attendance has averaged 46 The Mission of St Andrew in charge of Mr Jno H. Pearson began in a log hut shown in photo and now occupies the neat chapel shown above. The Church attendance averages 29. the Sunday School 12

To sum up people have heard the gospel on every Sunday during the past twelve months and it is not too much to say that but for the work of our Rector and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew the major part of this number would have gone without the word. It must surely be pleasant to good Churchmen everywhere to read of progress in any part of the Master's Vineyard. That has been my main purpose in this and not to ask help for the work.

We could do more with more means of course and I feel safe in saying that we would do more.

We need another new Chapel at the Messiah and we need three small sized Church organs - one each for the Missions already under way. If any one should wish to help out this work his letter of enquiry should be addressed to Rev C. Sattelee Morganton N.C.

Trusting I have not too much trespassed on your space I am dear Sir Faithfully Yrs Wm J. Pearson

Brochure on
Mission Work
in Burke Co.
Col. W. S. Pearson.

[Pearson, W. S., Col.]